

add the words: "especially Nos. 1 and 2 in view of the fact that the Port of Mangalore is going to be developed as an all-weather port and Karwar as an Intermediate Port"."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that a recommendation be made to the Government of India, for taking early necessary action for constructing the following Railway lines, especially Nos. 1 and 2 in view of the fact that the Port of Mangalore is going to be developed as an all-weather port and Karwar as an Intermediate Port:—

1. Hassan-Mangalore
2. Hubli-Karwar
3. Kottur-Harihar
4. Bangalore-Salem,
5. Bangalore-Virajpet
6. Gadag-Raichur."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The next resolution stands in the name of Sri T. Siddalingiah.

Non-Official Resolution *re*: Commencement of Proceedings with a Prayer.

Sri T. SIDDALINGAIYA (Doddballapur).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel very happy to move the following resolution on the floor of the House:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the proceedings of each day in the Assembly should be commenced with the prayer and therefore resolves that the day's proceedings should commence with the following prayer:—

'I, the M. L. A., a true servant of my Motherland, with all my heart, dedicate my service to the Holy Mother; I will speak only Truth,

will hear only Truth, and will see only Truth. Let the Holy Mother bless our work, at this Holy Place. Let us so concentrate our thought and deed'."

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved:

"That this Assembly is of opinion that the proceedings of each day in the Assembly should be commenced with the prayer and therefore resolves that the day's proceedings should commence with the following prayer.—

'I, the M. L. A., a true servant of my Motherland, with all my heart, dedicate my service to the Holy Mother; I will speak only Truth, will hear only Truth, and will see only Truth. Let the Holy Mother bless our work, at this Holy Place. Let us so concentrate our thought and deed'."

Sri K. S. SURYANARAYANA RAO (Mysore City).—I rise to a point of order. The point of order is of a fundamental nature. Sir, in this House, before we took our seat we took an oath of allegiance to the Constitution and in the name of God. Therefore, if we are to take an oath afresh before conducting the deliberations of the House every day, it must be reminding us of the oath that we have taken. Therefore, in the first place, I feel that it is against the Constitution and procedure of this House and secondly this House being constituted under the Constitution of a secular nature, I believe this resolution will have no relevancy so far as this House and members and its deliberations are concerned. Therefore this resolution is not in order.

Sri MAHMOOD SHARIFF (Broadway)—One point of clarification for the Member concerned. Only recently the Hon'ble Speaker went to the United Kingdom and other places. I would like to be informed as to what is the procedure. Is it a fact that in other countries, particularly America, the legislators are made to take an oath or pray that they be given light to conduct themselves in their deliberations, as

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befits citizens of a very important dominion. I should like to know from you about that. I do not like to speak anything on the point of order raised. May I request you kindly to enlighten us as to what is the procedure that is followed in other countries.

5-30 P.M.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have not been to America in the first instance. I had been to U. K. In the House of Commons there is a form of prayer. But I do not know what form of prayer it is. A visitor to the House of Commons is not allowed inside until the prayer is over. So far as the first portion of the resolution is concerned, it is all right, that we should begin our day's proceedings with a prayer. But the second part is rather complicated.

Sri MAHMOOD SHARIFF.—So far as the second part is concerned, we will sit together and see what will be the best formula. So far as the spirit is concerned, I do not think there can be any two opinions. I do not think that the objections raised by Sri Suryanarayana Rao is tenable at all.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Of course, we have taken the oath of allegiance to the country. I do not think that oath of allegiance forbids us in any way to have a sort of prayer. Prayer is not a form of oath of allegiance. That is why I am still doubtful whether this prayer goes against the oath of allegiance we have taken in respect of our duties.

Sri V. P. DEENADAYALU NAIDU (Cubbonpet).—We profess that we are in a secular State. In a secular State, whatever be the form of prayer we contemplate, is this the place for that? Is it not going counter to a secular democratic republic social welfare state? The very idea of taking up prayer here will go very much counter to the fundamental enunciation of the national party and the national existence and the policies we have adumbrated. I do not think it would be correct. I do not know in what form

the prayer is in the U. K. and other assemblies. But it is very clear here. The Government's policy, and the national policy is that it is definitely a secular State. Therefore, would it be in order if we commence with prayer every morning, apart from what we do at home. Still knowing as we do the secular nature of things that ought to exist in running the administration, in following certain things, would it be correct? Therefore, it may not be fitting, nor would it be correct, constitutionally, procedurally and legally and also in consonance with the policies of this Assembly it is not correct.

Sri T. SUBRAMANYA (Minister for Law, Labour and Local Self-Government)—However much I appreciate the spirit in which my friend Sri Siddalingaiya has tabled this resolution, I am very sorry, I am not able to agree even with regard to its admissibility. It is not a prayer at all in the first place. It is almost an oath taking. It says you will kindly permit me to read.

“I, the M. L. A., a true servant of my Motherland, with all my heart, dedicate my service to the Holy Mother. I will speak only truth, will hear only truth...”
If somebody speaks something else?
“...will see only truth. Let Holy Mother bless our work at this Holy Place. Let us so concentrate our thought and deed.”

Sir, it replaces the oath that we have taken in allegiance to the Constitution of this country and therefore this cannot be allowed in this House. Therefore, it becomes inadmissible. Even if we consider it as prayer, which I doubt, and even Sri Siddalingaiya will support me, in a country where we have got too many religions and faiths, this becomes inadmissible in a Democratic Republic and a secular state. With these few words, I request the Chair to rule out the resolution as being inadmissible.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA (Gubbi).—Sir, in a National Anthem all these things are there. According to me, we are not going to satisfy all sections of the public. Therefore

it may not be good to have any prayer or it may not be wise to accept. When the National Anthem is played, all these things are there. The National Anthem is for all people. Hindus and Muslims alike. The Hon'ble Law Minister did not make clear the difference between this and the act of prayer. After all prayer has nothing to do with the Oath of Allegiance which we take on the floor of the House before the Hon'ble Speaker saying that we will respect the Constitution, that we will work under the Constitution, that we will see that all constitutional methods are followed and that we will do everything in accordance with the Constitution. But this resolution says that the work of this Assembly should start with some sort of prayer. You were pleased to say that there is some sort of prayer in the U. K., but you did not make it clear what sort of prayer it is. Is it a silent prayer? To begin the business of the House, with prayer, is it going to wound anybody's feelings or any section of the people? I cannot see any reason why my friend Sri Suryanarayana Rao objected to it. I do not know whether he wanted this to be dropped or to know the ruling. I think there is absolutely no point of order in it. Let us see what Sri Siddalingaiya says, whether it is right or wrong. Let us see the way in which he is going to explain the whole resolution. If it is acceptable, let us accept. If it is not in true spirit, let us reject. In the first instance, why should we come in the way of the Mover? We do not know what he is going to say and what is behind this resolution. I request the Chair to rule out the point of order.

Sri A. V. NARASIMHA REDDY (Bangalore South).—There appears to be a suggestion made by Sri Muckannappa that a prayer like the National Song can be adopted and be sung before this House before the commencement of this House. But I want to remind him that the National Anthem is played at the end and not at the commencement.

Sri C. J. MUCKANNAPPA.—I did not state that it should be at the beginning.

Sri A. V. NARASIMHA REDDY.—The resolution is clear that the Assembly proceedings should commence with a prayer. Therefore, if my friend were to contend that it can be at any point of the proceedings of the House, it will not be correct and the resolution does not say anything about that. To have a song acceptable to all people here in consonance with the secular condition of the country and the secular thinking of the representatives of this House, I do not think we will be able to have a song acceptable to all. Therefore not to put ourselves in a dilemma in a resolution of this kind, I would appeal through you to Hon'ble Sri Siddalingaiya not to press it.

Mr. SPEAKER.—In the first place I want to make it quite clear that though we are a secular State, we are not a God-less State. We are not a Communist State where they do not believe in God. We are a democratic nation and we believe in God though we are secular. Secularism is not in antagonism with the idea of God. But, here, even after reading the resolution for a second time, I cannot make up my mind, but I want to consult this House. In the resolution, "Motherland" means the country, *i.e.*, "Mother" not in the abstract term but the country is taken as a Motherland. I am only trying to understand from you...

Sri ANNARAOGANAMUKHI (Minister for Education).—The Speaker of the Lok Sabha said: 'I am the King; my wife is the Queen and my son is the Yuvaraja'.

Sri SPEAKER.—Both are true that I am the King; and ruling. It is also correct in a democratic sense. When the Member says, "Holy Mother", he means the country. 'Let the country give me the strength to speak the truth, etc.' I am trying to understand from, the Hon'ble Members what it is. Now, I will allow the Hon'ble Members to think over the whole matter. We will take it up tomorrow.

Sri T. SUBRAMANYA.—The only point is with regard to the admissibility, for this is in the form of an Oath. We take an Oath of Allegiance to the

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Constitution. That is why, this is inadmissible.

Mr. S P E A K E R.—I have to find out whether this is an oath in substitution of the oath we have taken, or this is a form of prayer and if it is a prayer, whether it would be in accordance with the Constitution or it would be against it.

The House will now rise and meet tomorrow at 8-30 A. M.

The House adjourned at Forty-Five Minutes past Five of the Clock to meet again at Thirty Minutes past Eight of the Clock on Saturday, the 9th April 1960.